

All of you know what's in this agreement. Let's never forget what's behind it, and let's never forget, too, that this is ultimately a victory for a couple of simple ideas, that people ought to be able to relate more and more and more every year now to people beyond their borders, to work in harmony. The end of the cold war imposes more than relief. It gives us a responsibility to finally take advantage of the interconnections that exist in the world today. It's a victory for the idea that America can lead in the 21st century, that we need not fear competition, that we want our neighbors to do better than they have been doing, and when they do better, we will do better—old-fashioned, simple ideas.

We must never run away from the world. We must go into the 21st century convinced that the only way to preserve the American dream is to be involved with the rest of the world, to be willing to compete, to be determined to win, to be serious about overcoming our problems, but to realize that the only way you can ever do it is to see the opportunities that are plainly there.

I want to thank every Republican and every Democrat here. I thank my predecessors for the work they did on this treaty. I thank, especially, Presidents Carter, Ford, and Bush for their lobbying here for the votes we needed at the last minute. But most of all, I am very pleased to see in recent days evidence in public opinion surveys that for the first time in history, the American people see trade as more of an opportunity than a threat. That is, of course, the ultimately critical factor, because we all serve at the sufferance of the people. They have to believe in themselves and their future and in an open world. And I think that all of you who fought these battles, and especially this last debate on GATT, played a major role in persuading the American people that the future is bright, that our best days are ahead, and that we are going forward with confidence. That ultimately may be the most important significance of the bill I am now proud to sign.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. at the Organization of American States Building. In his remarks, he referred to Cesar Juairia, Secretary General, Organization of American States. H.R.

5110, approved December 8, was assigned Public Law No. 103-465

Statement on the White House Initiative on Welfare Reform

December 8, 1994

Today, after meeting with a group of Governors from both parties, I am announcing that the White House will convene a national bipartisan working session on welfare reform next month.

Welfare reform is a top priority for my administration, for the Governors, for the new Congress, and above all, for the American people. Americans have asked their elected officials to put aside politics as usual and begin earnest work to solve our Nation's problems, and welfare reform is at the very top of our agenda.

I have called for this session as a first step in an honest dialog about our country's broken welfare system and what we must do to fix it. Washington doesn't have all the answers, and Government doesn't, either. Every one of us in this country has to begin taking individual responsibility for turning this country around.

I have worked on this issue for my whole career in public life. When I was a Governor, I worked closely with President Reagan and Senator Moynihan to develop the bipartisan consensus that led to passage of important legislation to strengthen families and move people from welfare to work.

I believe we must end welfare as we know it, because the current welfare system is a bad deal for the taxpayers who pay the bills and for the families who are trapped on it. The American people deserve a Government that honors their values and spends their money judiciously and a country that rewards people who work hard and play by the rules.

People want their leaders to stop the partisan bickering, come together, and roll up their sleeves and get to work. This meeting will be the beginning of a new day, not just for the welfare system but for how our Government works.

Proclamation 6761—Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week, 1994

December 8, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every generation is blessed with its own moral leaders and visionaries. Through the years, America has been graced by the wisdom and guidance of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson. Many of us aspire to live the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. The youth of today might find strength in the courage of Vaclav Havel or Nelson Mandela. Regardless of the visionary, regardless of the generation, the content of the vision endures: a commitment to freedom, an expectation of justice, and a belief in the infinite value of humanity.

From a jail cell in Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. King penned some of the most eloquent words of the United States civil rights movement: "Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust." Even in a place of absolute confinement, King recognized that discrimination, ignorance, and intolerance are far more imprisoning barriers than any common construction of steel and barbed wire. And true freedom demands more than beating down prison walls. Equality only comes by striking at injustice with reason and the power of the law.

Our Bill of Rights and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights are powerful statements indeed. They have moved humankind closer to realizing a society of "just" laws—a society that upholds what we believe is righteous and affirms what we know is right.

Yet in celebrating the freedoms that are ours as beneficiaries of democracy, we are no less bound to those who remain prisoners of prejudice, poverty, and violence. In this Nation and in countries around the world, it is unfortunate that much of Dr. King's work remains undone. Today, we rededicate ourselves to Dr. King's dream, to joining President Mandela as he works to renew South Africa, to standing with President

Havel as he promotes prosperity in the Czech Republic—to championing the cause of human dignity for people everywhere on Earth. Freedom is the ability to reach out and the responsibility to help build. With the wind of justice at our backs, freedom is the strength to lift all humanity to higher ground.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 10, 1994, as "Human Rights Day," December 15, 1994, as "Bill of Rights Day," and the week beginning December 10, 1994, as "Human Rights Week." I call upon all of the people of the United States to mark these observances with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:23 a.m., December 9, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 12.

Remarks to Summit of the Americas Volunteers in Miami, Florida

December 8, 1994

Thank you. Thank you. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the first thing I want to say is a hearty thank-you for letting the "he-coon" stay in the tree in Tallahassee for 4 more years.

I am delighted to be here and Hillary is delighted to be here with Lawton and Rhea, with Buddy and Anne and Bob and Adele Graham and so many of our friends here in Florida.

You know, I was trying to remember just exactly how I got talked into having this summit in Miami, and it—yeah—[laughter]—when I got out of the airplane tonight I remembered why I was smart enough to want to come here in December. Actually, I have